



**2024 International Advisory Committee of the  
United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre (UN-GGKIC)  
Deqing, Zhejiang Province, China  
17 - 18 April 2024**

**Summary Notes**

1. The 2024 Meeting of the International Advisory Committee was held on 17-18 April 2024 at the Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre in Deqing, China, with the agenda as below:

- 1) Welcome and introductions
- 2) Provisional agenda, organization of the meeting and setting-the-scene
- 3) Terms of Reference, membership, and Co-Chairs of the International Advisory Committee
- 4) Working modalities and the advisory role and responsibilities of the UN-GGKIC: International Advisory Committee
- 5) Consideration of the UN-GGKIC programme of work according to the Framework plan
- 6) Consideration and development of the strategic plan
- 7) Consideration and development of the annual programme of work of UN-GGKIC
- 8) Summary, way forward and close

The meeting was opened with remarks by:

- The Director of the Statistics Division (UNSD), Mr. Schweinfest
- The Director of the Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre, Mr. Li, and
- The Co-Chair of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management from Belgium, Ms. Vanden Berghe

The Director of UNSD noted that the International Advisory Committee is composed of 23 international geospatial experts with 18 members present, and only 5 members submitting regrets not to attend. The meeting was also attended by several observers who contributed to the substantive discussions on the programme of work of the UN-GGKIC. Participants introduced themselves and their professional background.

2. The Director of the Centre introduced the agenda and confirmed the details of the organization of the meeting. The Director of UNSD provided a brief background and context of the UN-GGKIC and the strategic and oversight role of the International Advisory Committee.

3. The International Advisory Committee reviewed, discussed, and adopted its Terms of Reference which has been distributed to this meeting. The members also considered the advisory role and responsibilities of the International Advisory Committee including reporting to the annual sessions of UN-GGIM under the agenda item 'Enhancing global geospatial information management arrangements.' The Director of UNSD also presided over the selection process whereby the following were affirmed as Co-Chairs of the International Advisory Committee to GGKIC as:

- Ms. Maroale Chauke, Director of the National Spatial Information Framework from South Africa, and
- Mr. Antonius Wijanarto, Deputy Chairman of Thematic Geospatial Information from Indonesia





4. The International Advisory Committee further discussed its upcoming methods of work including the conduct of the annual meeting, online meetings, the formation of specific task groups and/or the organization of ad hoc meetings as needed, as reflected in its Terms of Reference.

5. The International Advisory Committee then turned to the consideration of the programme of work of the UN-GGKIC, which must be aligned to the Framework Plan, as contained in the Article 3 of the Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations and the Government of China. The Director of the Centre made a presentation on its draft strategic plan followed by the work programme for the consideration of the International Advisory Committee members. The International Advisory Committee expressed its appreciation for the ambitious draft strategic plan and work programme prepared by the Director of the Centre.

6. As provided in the adopted terms of reference, the role and responsibilities of the International Advisory Committee is to provide the required guidance and advice on the development, implementation, and review of the substantive annual programme of work of the Centre.

7. The International Advisory Committee organized themselves into breakout groups for small group interactions, discussions, exchange of views and sharing of ideas to further consider the development of a strategic plan and work programme.

For the agenda items 6 and 7, the International Advisory Committee made the following recommendations on the draft strategic plan and work programme and the need to:

- define more clearly a unique vision, mission, goals and related actions for the Centre.
- define a more targeted and focused Strategic plan with clear priorities and logical framework of the activities of the Centre.
- include the focus on the overarching goal of the UN-GGKIC as outlined in the Framework Plan, which is to work towards the ambitions of implementation of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) set by Member States.
- highlight its key role in the coordination between already existing training, workshops, education, and knowledge initiatives and/or activities.
- focus on supporting and implementing of UN-IGIF country-level Action Plans to strengthen and advance the geospatial information management capabilities of Member States.
- develop its plan and programme in close collaboration and coordination with the relevant communities related to the focus areas of the Centre including consultations with Member States, the High-level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, the SDG Data Alliance, the thematic networks of UN-GGIM, UN-GGIM Regional Committees, and any other appropriate but relevant institutions to assess both the requirements and offers by respective groups.
- facilitate and support the knowledge for the production of nationally owned data.
- build knowledge on geospatially disaggregated SDGs indicator data to support SDGs monitoring, and implementation in collaboration with the wider data community (Earth observation, geospatial, statistics...).
- assess existing gaps and opportunities, including by leveraging prior assessments and surveys on UN-IGIF, for providing capacity building activities to Member States, especially developing countries.
- support Member States in accessing relevant knowledge, training and events from appropriate and reputable international organizations, geospatial societies, academic institutes, private sector and UN system.





- support the ongoing activities and upcoming events of the UN-GGIM substantive programme of work.
- identify quick wins for the UN-GGIC and targeting resources toward completion.
- leverage international geospatial technical expertise.
- define a measuring mechanism for monitoring the progress and success of the Centre.

To revise the Strategic plan, the International Advisory Committee further suggested the following modalities to:

- 1) The Director of UNSD and Director of the Centre receive comments from International Advisory Committee within a week including elements to further improve the strategic plan.
- 2) amend the strategic plan with more clear vision, objectives, logical framework, and measuring mechanism following the above suggestions of the International Advisory Committee
- 3) organize an online meeting with the International Advisory Committee to review the amendments on 16 May 2024.
- 4) organize an online meeting with the International Advisory Committee to endorse the strategic plan in the first week of July 2024.
- 5) provide and present the adopted strategic plan at the upcoming Fourteenth Session of the Committee of Experts in August 2024.

8. Given the pre-requisite of revisions to the Strategic plan, the IAC decided to discuss the programme of work at later stage however with the view not to postpone prioritized activities. As such, the International Advisory Committee suggested for the Director of the Centre to:

- Prepare the detailed work programme for 2024-25 once the Strategic plan is finalized.
- Proceed with activities from its current work programme plan that are aligned with the recommendations, advice and guidance from the International Advisory Committee received during this week.
- Support priority events of the UN-GGIM programme of work and the related attendance of Member States, including:
  - o the upcoming SIDS4 conference,
  - o the Fourteenth Session of Committee of Experts,
  - o the plenary meetings of regional committees,
  - o the Seventh High-level Forum in Mexico, and
  - o other events as organized by the High-level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework
- consider the organization of an international seminar later in the year at the Centre that could be related to the topics of data disaggregation, and/or Geospatial data for the Sustainable Development Goals.

